

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/659,399

Examiner

Joshua L. Pritchett

Applicant(s)

TAKAHASHI ET AL.

Art Unit

2872

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed March 23, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-8 and 11-26.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 11 September 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

This action is in response to Amendment filed March 23, 2005. Claim 2 has been amended and claim 10 has been cancelled as requested by the applicant.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments, see Amendment, filed March 23, 2005, with respect to claim 2 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claim 2 has been withdrawn. Applicant amended independent claim 2 to include the limitations of claim 10, which was previously indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-8 and 11-26 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claims 1 and 2, the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest an optical functional sheet comprising transparent phases and light diffusing phases alternating along the surface in the sheet direction and the length of the transparent phase in a direction of film thickness divided by the length of the transparent phases in a direction along the sheet surface is a range from 2 to 10.

Suga discloses an optical functional sheet comprising light diffusing phases (16) and transparent phases (14) extending in a direction perpendicular to the surface of the sheet, wherein the light diffusing phase and the transparent phase are alternately arranged along the sheet surface direction (Fig. 1). Suga discloses at least within the sheet light diffusing phases and transparent phases each extending in a direction perpendicular to the surface of the sheet (Fig. 1). Suga lacks reference to the light-diffusing phase forming a continuous phase. Yoshida teaches the use of the light diffusing phase (5) arranged in a form of a continuous phase in which the light diffusing phases are mutually coupled in a direction along the sheet surface (Figs. 3 and 6). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the Suga light diffusing phase form a continuous phase as taught by Yoshida for the purpose of having all the light diffused to widen the viewing angle of the functional sheet.

The remaining claims depend from claims 1 and 2 and are allowable for the same reasons.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Art Unit: 2872

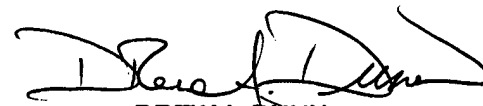
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joshua L. Pritchett whose telephone number is 571-272-2318.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 7:00 - 3:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Drew A. Dunn can be reached on 571-272-2312. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JLP JP


DREW A. DUNN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER